Introduction of social science in schools

2822. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce integrated and composite social science in schools, in place of Geography, History, Civics and Economics;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) by when, it would be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLIMANOHAR JOSHI): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2000, NCERT has recommended for an integrated thematic approach for developing social science curriculum for classes VI to X. In place of four textbooks separately for History, Geography, Civics and Economics, only one textbook in social science will be prepared now. This will be introduced in a phased manner starting from April, 2002 session.

Rehabilitation plan for Vrindavan widows

2823. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not taken any action on the Rehabilitation plan sent by the West Bengal Government on the status of Vrindavan widows; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, along with the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b)The Government ofWest Bengal had suggested the following : (i) provision of Old Age Pension Scheme to those widows of Vrindavan who do not wish to return to West Bengal; (ii) setting up of Old Age Homes; and (iii) setting up of a Trust with the representatives from the Central Government, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Government of West Bengal and local NGOs as Members and District Magistrate, Mathura as Chairman for looking after the welfare of marginalised women from West Bengal living in Vrindavan. They also informed that they would take up awareness generation in source districts of West Bengal.